

Remarks

In this amendment, independent Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 21, 29, 32, and 39 are amended to more clearly recite that which is being claimed.

Claims 1-4, 6-24 and 26-40 are pending.

Claims 1-4, 6-24 and 26-40 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,035,400 issued to Yasuoka.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn given the clarifying amendments to each of the independent claims and for at least the following clearly patently differentiating reasons.

Each method recited in the amended independent Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 21, 29, 32, and 39 includes a step of "<u>if the device is in a non-regionalized condition</u>, configuring the device in a regionalized condition based on the transferred region identification information stored in the memory".

Yasuoka fails to disclose or otherwise suggest such a step. Indeed, Yasuoka essentially teaches away from such a step because a reference code is stored in the ROM in the device in advance. This reference code is for a preset area where the use of the video game machine is permitted. See, e.g., column 4, lines 47-49. Hence, Yasuoka teaches that the gaming device is always preconfigured in a regionalized condition.

Moreover, while Yasuoka teaches that each game cartridge will have associated with it a reference code (see, e.g., column 5, lines 41-47), Yasuoka never discloses or even reasonably suggests that the reference code associated with the game cartridge be used to configure (e.g., change or set) the reference code associated with the gaming device.

Yasuoka does not disclose or suggest changing any reference codes. Indeed, Yasuoka relies on the security of the preset reference codes in the gaming

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device and gaming cartridges to prevent non-regional usage. See, e.g., column 7, line 63 through column 8, line 29.

For at least these reasons, independent Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 21, 29, 32, and 39, and dependent Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 20, 22-24, 26-28, 30, 31, 33-38, and 40 which add further limitations, are patentable over the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,

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